

(al'ma jest')

February 24, The Year 2000

The Almagest
Sometimes we speak your language

Volume 37, Number 4

Dawson visits campus

by Mark Rogers

Dr. Mat Dawson Jr. presented LSUS with a \$100,000 check on Feb. 21 to establish his third endowed scholarship fund. He also received a special award from the Shreveport/Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau.

Dawson works seven days a week to earn as much money as possible to help students fund their education.

His incredible record of giving totals well over \$1 million dollars.

Dawson has been a guest on Oprah Winfrey.

The President and Mrs. Clinton have also recognized him for his generosity.

Dawson was born in Shreveport in 1921. He attended West Shreveport Elementary School and Old Central High School, which was the only high school in Shreveport for blacks at that time.

In 1940, Dawson's parents sent him to live with

his uncle in Michigan and work for Ford Motor Company. He still drives a forklift

there. At 78 years old Dawson is Ford's oldest continuous

employee world-wide.

The had already established his reputation has a

memory of his parents: The Matel Dawson Sr. and Bessie Hall Scholarship Fund.

In 1998, he established the "Matel 'Mat' Dawson, Jr. Scholarship Fund" his second \$100,000 endowment.

His third endowment is the "Ned and Kittie Dawson Scholarship Fund" in honor of his grandparents.

He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Wayne State University. He



Dawson

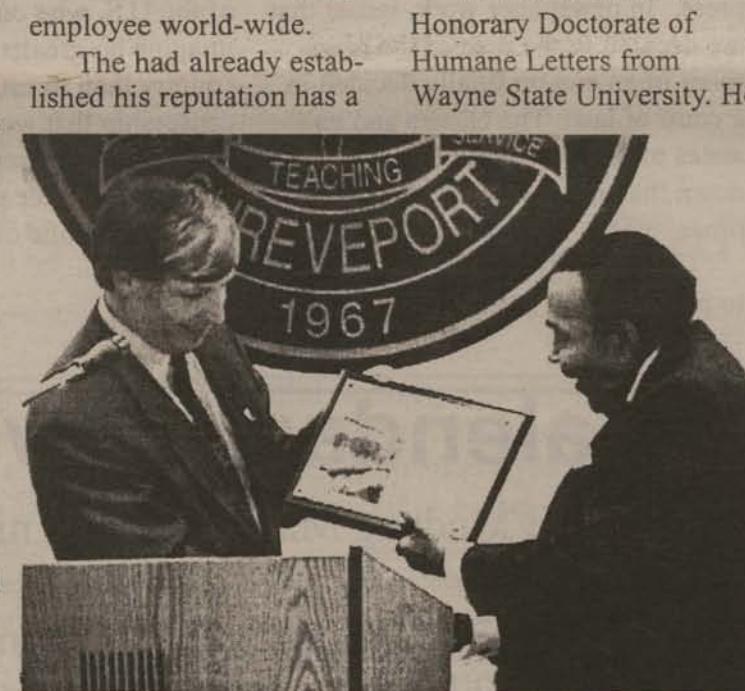


photo by Mark Rogers

Dr. Matel Dawson accepts his award from Preston Friedley, Jr., president of the Shreveport/Bossier convention and tourist bureau.

philanthropist with his generosity to Wayne State University in Michigan and the United Negro College Fund.

Dawson began giving to LSUS in 1997 with his first \$100,000 fund in

has been recognized as one of the leading philanthropists in America by the United Negro College Fund.

One of his greatest joys is to meet with the students who have benefited from



Aaron Sartori, a portrait of Loki.

It's Pickin' time!

by Aaron Sartori

A quick glance outside your window reveals the singing song of spring, but it's only February.

The wonderfully strange culture of Louisiana bears the likes of Mardi Gras to a dark underworld of Voodoo, but the lesser talked about, yet as commonly practiced act of mushrooming is a thriving entity.

Known as the Panaceolus Subbalteatus, the hallucinogenic mushroom, indigenous to most of the Southeastern United States, has been utilized for years by the area native Americans for religious ceremonies.

As the practices of local native Americans declined with the onset of European culture, the use of "magic" mushrooms became more of a recreational affair. (Cont. on p. 4)

his
donations and learn more
about them.

Without fail, one of the students will ask for advice on how to be successful, to which Dr. Dawson replies, "Get an education, workhard, save your money, and give back to others."

INSIDE

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BASEBALL

The pilot's take on LA Tech in Ruston this weekend.

See it.

The Almagest

(“al-meh-jest”, n): Arabic: “The Majestic”
any of several medieval treatises on a branch of knowledge (as the
9th century Arabic translation of Ptolemy’s Greek work on astronomy)
– Webster’s Third New International Dictionary

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The Almagest is a member of the Southeastern Journalism Conference, American College Press Association, and the Columbia Scholastic Press Association

From The Editor

The response to the Almagest this semester has been almost deafening. There are criticisms, compliments, and comments from people who drop by or stop us between classes to tell us what they think.

There has never been a happier newspaper staff. People we had never met before stop what they're doing to talk to us about the stories we are printing. People e-mail us, people call us, and people actually write in. They want us to print what they think because they know everyone is reading the paper.

We want to encourage students, faculty, staff and those outside #1 University drive to write in.

We received several letters in the past week that we were sad we couldn't print. Either they were anonymous or libelous. They did answer questions we had, but were written in a way that abused the power of the press. In newspaper work, issues that are decided in the rush of the newsroom often end up finally decided in a court of law. The checks and balances of the system work to hunt down that elusive animal we sometimes refer to as justice.

One of the things we were happy to print was the letter from the two

senators of the SGA. This sort of counterpoint to the views expressed in the Almagest shows, we believe, the sort of credibility we are trying to cultivate.

The letter came in after deadline, but before the publisher picked up the paper. We had to reformat page 3 and cut information that we wanted to print. This is, of course, the nature of a newspaper. There is only so much time and so much space.

When we are criticized for editorial decisions, which is daily, the explanation is almost always the same.

The Almagest only has to follow the guidelines set up for professional news organizations. The Almagest has a singular autonomy granted to it because of the First Amendment.

When the Almagest criticizes others, we like to remember the words of Woodrow Wilson, the 28th president of the U.S. who once said, “I can imagine no greater disservice to the country than to establish a system of censorship that would deny to the people of a free republic like our own their indisputable right to criticize their own public officials.” br

Calendar of Events

Tommorrow: Mudbug Madness-LSUS night with the bugs @ 7:00pm

Saturday: The Pilot's take on LA Tech in Ruston 1:00pm

Sunday: The Pilot's take on LA Tech in Ruston 1:00pm

Got a story?

Call the Almagest at 797-5328 Email us at almagest@pilot.lsus.edu

The Almagest Letters Policy

The Almagest requests your reactions through Letters to the Editor. Letters should be typed and double spaced. Please include your class and major field of study. Letters should be submitted to *The Almagest* office, BH 344, by noon on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed. *The Almagest* reserves the right to edit letters. □

Letters to the Editor:

Classifieds are offensive

Dear Almagest,

We are writing in regards to the tasteless classified ads published weekly in the paper. While we feel that the idea of a joke, make believe classified section is a good idea, we feel that you have pushed the boundary past the acceptable limits of good taste. As two concerned members of the SGA, we feel it is our duty to take action on behalf of the offended students who have shared their concerns with us. As a paper that is supposed to represent the views of the LSUS students, you have managed to offend or make fun of nearly every type of LSUS student.

According to your website, your purpose is to "publish a weekly newspaper relaying campus activities and events. The Almagest provides an opportunity for students to gain experience in the field of journalism." We feel these ads have nothing to do with campus activities and events. These classified ads make us question the quality of experience the *Almagest* is providing.

We feel that you should use better judgement when using the student funds to offend a large portion of the students. Since the newspaper is distributed to the community, it should reflect a positive image of our university and not one of insensitive un-intellectual smut.

Sincerely,

Jason P. McInnis
Stephanie Lavery

Students should be proud

Dear Almagest,

Congratulations to all of you students enrolled in college this first semester of the 2000 millennium. You are helping to better yourself for life. College helps you get an education. But there are so many other advantages that it affords you. Friends, exposure to other courses of study, organizations and benefits. A higher educated public will give improvement to society.

I watched a news special on TV this past year. It televised a study on a group of nuns in a convent. The nuns donated their brains to science after their deaths. When the researchers cut into their brains they wondered why the nuns had not suffered worse symptoms. Some of the brains showed Alzheimer's disease. Yet while in life the symptoms were not as severe as the disease showed.

News researchers on the program said that they theorized three contributing factors: (1) The nuns lived in a community type group. Having each other was a supportive force. (2) The more educated nuns, those that had the highest degree of education, suffered the least. (Knowledge helps us- it must strengthen our brains.) (3) The third reason was contributing to God. The presence of God in their lives gave them a special help in their infirmities.

Education has greater benefits than just helping us get a job. It has lasting, medicinal, emotional, and rewarding effect.

Knowledge is the key of learning. It must be the key to other important roles as well. Enjoy your education.

Officer Pansy Lee #311
Police Officer with LSUHSC Hospital

The arts are entertainment



photo by Stephen Hullett

The Open air arts fair is held downtown at 519 Milam.



photo by Stephen Hullett

Jake Dement of BPCC displays his wares.

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Picking a winner: fields of glory

(Cont from p.1)

So, where do you find the marvelously illicit fruit that flourishes the fields of Cajun Country?

Most people don't want to hear that there are others searching the private properties of our area cow pastures for mushrooms sprouting from manure.

Panaelous Subbalteatus expands from the manure of mainly cows (grain fed only) between the temperatures of 45 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit. The mycelium needs fairly dry conditions to mature, but once in the stages of maturity the

mycelium requires a large quantity of water.

Once mature, the desired specimen will exhibit: a light brown to dark cinnamon ring on the top, fairly dark black gills, a vertically grooved, hollow stem, and a white or yellowish flesh.

Of course, the noted

signature of the Panaelous Subbalteatus is the presence of a blue dye that may take up to 120 hours to present itself after the flesh is broken. A strong air of caution should be accounted for when having anything to do with the entire process of mushrooming.

A. Unless you have

legal access to a pasture, trespassing is against the law. A plan must be in place to avoid this obstacle.

B. There is some gray area to the legality of

possession of the "magic" mushroom.

Psilocybin, the active

Psilocybin is a powerful neuro-toxin.

ingredient of the mushroom, is a schedule I controlled dangerous substance (CDS), but most cases where the mushrooms are found in possession of said party without having been prepared to consume do not end with any convictions; however, the proper funding for a court battle should be prepared.

C. Psilocybin is a powerful neuro-toxin.

Large amounts of Psilocybin can mean an extra trip, to the hospital that is. A good majority of mushrooms that resemble the Panaelous Subbalteatus are extremely poisonous. There are many documented cases of deaths related

to the improper consumption of mushrooms.

Always take an experienced hunter with you for the first couple of outings.

To a enigmatic day in Disneyland or the cozy couches in the caldrons of hell, yell a little "Freedom!" and let's find a way back to what we call home sweet home.

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Staff Profile: Wally Derleth, the face of LSUS

by Jennifer Davlin

Walden Derleth (Wally) is a busy man on campus. He works in the Department of Continuing Education during the day, d.j.s for KDAQ in the evening, and umpires Pilots base-

and paralegal training

These duties keep him busy until 4:00 p.m. when, as Derleth explains, he mentally changes modes for his shift at KDAQ.

KDAQ is housed here on the LSUS campus

she discussed the shortage of staff at the station and the need to hire someone to work part time with Dr. Charles Wilson, Dean of Continuing Education, and Derleth's name came up.

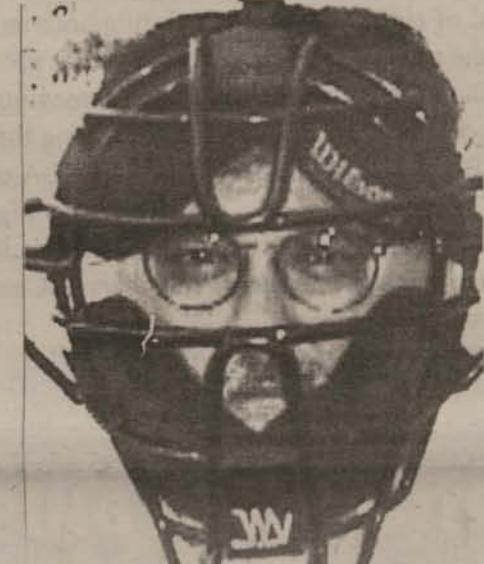
Knowing that Der-

Derleth said that he is a big sports fan but that baseball has always been his first love.

He played the game as he was growing up, and, during the summer before his senior year in high school, his coach got him a job umpiring

his emotions with him on the field. He said that doing so would make for long games.

Derleth began umpiring for the Pilots since the beginning of the season. He said that he has enjoyed working with the team so far.



ball in his spare time.

In August of 1994, Derleth moved to Shreveport from Wisconsin, when his wife, Dr. Beverly Burden accepted a position here.

He had owned a computer consulting desktop publishing firm, but having left his client base back in Wisconsin, Derleth decided to pursue a position with the Department of Continuing Education at LSUS.

In addition to his basic daily duties, Derleth shares in the responsibility of getting people interested in and registered for continuing education classes and curriculums such as dental assistant training

From 4-7 p.m., he is the local on-air host for *All Things Considered*, a National Public Radio news program out of Washington that gives the stories behind the day's headlines.

Derleth said that even with his previous experience, technology has changed a great deal and he is still learning the ropes.

Because the station falls under the umbrella of Continuing Education, Derleth frequently had telephone conversations with Catherine Fraser, General Manager at KDAQ, prior to his being hired by the station.

According to Fraser,

Derleth had previous radio experience and being familiar with his voice from their telephone conversations, Fraser thought that he would be a good candidate for the position.

After putting him in front of the microphone and doing some preliminary assessment, all parties were in agreement, and Derleth has been at KDAQ since last November.

In addition to his Monday through Friday, 4-7 shift, Derleth recently took over the *Big Band Jump*. It airs at 3:00 on Sunday afternoons.

This leaves his Saturdays free for baseball.

softball games.

He began to umpire baseball games a few years later, and has been enjoying it ever since.

While he was still in Wisconsin, Derleth was given the opportunity to become an umpire for professional baseball, but chose not to pursue it.

When asked why he spends what little free time he has working as an umpire, Derleth explained that it was not work to him.

"Some people fish; I umpire," Derleth said.

While Derleth describes umpiring as being an outlet for him, he does not take

And if all that was not enough, Derleth is currently writing a novel. So, if you do not encounter him on campus, perhaps you will meet him at a book signing sometime in the future.

Regarding his busy schedule, Derleth explained that he likes the challenge. "I feel rewarded at the end of the day."

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Attendance plagues SGA

by Scott Balcerzak



The Student Government Association (SGA) could not call quorum for the second week in a row during the Feb. 14th meeting.

A total of ten senators were not present. Due to such a low turnout, no official business could be voted upon and the meeting was never officially called into order.

A total of eight senators attended the meeting, which is four less than the number needed to officially make a quorum. Because of the St. Valentine's Day holiday, a large amount of absences was expected by many of the senators, who voiced their concerns over the matter during

the previous week's unofficial meeting.

During recent weeks, a lack of senators has been a major cause for concern within the SGA.

The February 7th meeting also resulted in quorum not being called and no official business could be voted upon. The SGA also has the problem of nine open senator seats, which by February 14 had not been filled.

These attendance problems have already raised discussion during both unofficial meetings of the possibility of moving the meetings to a different time during the week.

The SGA currently meets on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the Desoto Room of the University Center.

Problem from Hell



In a sequence of positive numbers, each term except the first two is the sum of all its predecessors. The eleventh term of the sequence is 1000 and the first term is 1. What is the second term?

Answer next week.

Please submit solutions to Dr. Vekovius of the LSUS Mathematics Department in BH 420. Include your name and phone number. Prizes will be awarded. Answer to last week's problem: A palindrome is a positive integer such that such that when its digits are reversed, the result equals the original number. How many five-digit palindromes are there? 10

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Student Profile Charlotte Rice:novelist

by William Aaron
McKechnie

LSUS English Major Charlotte Rice is the author of the recently published novel Creeping Aphrodite. What began as part of an English assignment several years ago, has now become a finished piece of work. The novel is an introspective look into a young girl's struggle with being overweight.

Once an aspiring concert pianist at Northwestern, Rice found herself writing and discovering her hidden potential.

"If you mess up in the middle of performing a piano piece you can't take it back, but in writing you can edit things over and over," said Rice.

"I've always had a love for reading and music," said Rice.

It was Rice who was the most surprised when she didn't become a concert pianist. Rice described the experience as "the dark



horse leaving the chosen path."

It was LSUS English professor Robert Colbert and associate professor Thomas DuBose who Rice attributes to strengthening her writing and expanding



Rice

her vocabulary. Rice said she found that, through stronger semantic control, her writing became more polished and proficient. Colbert said,

"Southern Grotesque sums (Rice's style) up well."

"I think she's a hoot,"

English professor Dorie LaRue said of Rice. "I think Creeping Aphrodite is sophisticated, funny. For her first novel, it blows my mind."

According to Rice, it was because of LaRue's encouragement that she took what was a short story assignment and continued to develop it into a novel.

Rice said that writing the novel was the easy part when compared to all the time and effort she has to spend in publicizing the novel around the city and hoping it will circulate nationally one day.

Rice said there is a small press division at Barnes and Noble that is interested in picking up the

book. But to achieve that goal, Rice said, "I have to show an impressive selling of the book."

Rice has mailed 20 copies of the novel to literature-oriented magazines for review.

Rice had a book signing at Barnes and Noble on Feb. 12.

Chris Fowler-Sandlin, manager of Barnes and Noble in Shreveport, said he believes Rice has talent.

"It is very interesting," Fowler-Sandlin said of Creeping Aphrodite.

According to Fowler-Sandlin, Barnes and Noble has approximately 50 book signings per year, while B. Dalton stated that they have approximately five a

year at each of the two stores in the Shreveport area.

Rice says she can accept being unable to please everyone on the content of the novel. "If people don't like my novel that's all right, as long as they laughed out loud during parts of reading (Creeping Aphrodite)," said Rice.

Currently, Rice is scheduled to have a book signing at B. Dalton at St. Vincent Mall on Feb. 26 and B. Dalton at South Park Mall on March 4. Rice is also in the process of writing two novels, one autobiographical in nature and the other exploring child abuse.

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elevenTeen

by Jeremy Johnson



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